

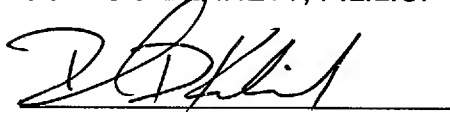
**REMARKS**

The Examiner has issued a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment due to numerous claim informalities associated with Applicants' Response to Office Action dated February 20, 2006 faxed to the USPTO Central Fax Center on April 24, 2006. Applicants concur with this assessment and submit herein a complete set of correct claims indicating the status of all claims in compliance with 37 CFR §1.121. The claims are amended as shown above, with amendment status also indicated. All changes are shown by underlining the added text and double-bracketing and/or strikethrough of deleted text. Applicants intend for the claim set shown above to supersede and to replace in its entirety the claim set that was included in the April 24th Response to Office Action.

In the Final Office Action dated December 1, 2005, the Examiner allowed claims 1-16 and 20, rejected claims 17 and 19, and objected to claim 18 as dependent upon a rejected base claim, but allowable if rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the parent and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants have amended claim 18 to include the limitations of parent independent claim 17. There are no intervening claims. Applicants have cancelled independent claim 17. Claim 19 has been amended to depend from independent claim 18. Further, Applicants have corrected a minor grammatical informality identified by the Examiner in claim 14. Specifically, the word "mate" has been changed to "mates," which is more grammatically consistent with the singular "connection member" recited in claim 14. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. In light of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the allowance of all pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

COATS & BENNETT, P.L.L.C.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Kalish', written over a horizontal line.

Dated: May 26, 2006

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